Opening of New Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Andhra Pradesh

355. DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh had urged the Union Government to open new tourism and travel management institute in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accepted the proposal of the State Government for setting up such Institute; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to open a new Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Hyderabad. In view of the constraint in resources, the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been considered.

Deteriorated Communication in West Bengal

356. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether telecommunications in Murshidabad, Maldah, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts of West Bengal is in deteriorated condition;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the improvement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir, the telecommunications services are satisfactory except a few interruptions in the system at Alipurduar in Jalpaiguri District and Harishchandrapur in Maldah District.

(b) Few complaints were received in the past about telephone services at Alipurduar and Harishchandrapur. The Exchange at Alipurduar has now been replaced by a new digital upgraded in a phased manner. As a consequence, the service at Alipurduar is now substantially improved. There was an interconnection problem between two units of the exchange at Harish-chandrapur which has been attended to.

(c) The following steps are being taken to further improve the service.

(i) Routine check of equipments.
(ii) Immediate rectification of faults.
(iii) Ensure sufficient stock of spares and stores.
(iv) Tight supervision by the officer incharge.

Regularisation of Services of Doctors

357. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY
SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR
PROF JITENDRA NATH DAS
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH
DR ASIM BALA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry engaged a large number of Homoedpathy, Ayurvedic and Unani Doctors as part time/temporarily at different important centres of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government have issued an order for the regularisation of services of Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic and Unani Doctors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry so far for the regularisation of services of these doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Homeopathy and Ayurvedic Doctors on part time basis with fixed honorarium have been engaged by the Staff benefit Fund Committees on the Railways.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) and (d): Do not arise.

STATEMENT

Railway	Homoeopathic Doctors	Ayurvedic Doctors	Total
Central	15	2	17
Eastern	17	10	27
Northern	14	10	24
North Eastern	24	5	29
Northeast Frontier	8	2	10
Southern	8	3	11
South Central	3	4	7
South Eastern	14	Nil	14
Western	10	Nil	10

[Translation]

Agreement with Foreign Countries

358. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed by the

Government with foreign countries for the execution/ maintenance of railway projects in the country during the last two years and the current year so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Mineral Wealth

359. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether mineral wealth of the country is decreasing constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage exploration of mineral wealth in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Minerals are non-renewable resources of the country. Depletion is proportionate to the quantum exploited only.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geological Survey of India is one of the major organisation entirely dedicated to the exploration activities in the country. Annually about 170 mineral investigation projects are being taken up throughout the country. During 8th Five Year Plan Geological Survey of India has succeeded in augmenting the resources of various important mineral commodities. The Geological Survey of India has given main thrust during the 9th Five Year Plan for mineral exploration with special emphasis on deficient commodities of high value like Gold, Diamond, etc. as well as on ores & minerals of high demand like base metals, Tin, Tungsten, Molybdenum, etc.

Exploration is also carried out by Directorate of Mining & Geology in the respective States. Further, Guidelines for prospecting of minerals in larger areas through private sectors have also been issued recently.

[English]

Re-construction of Hotels by ITDC

360. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation propose to re-construct certain hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some foreign firms have been invited to join the joint ventures for designing and construction of these hotels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms proposed for the said joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. ITDC envisages to undertake schemes for renovation of its Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjit Hotels in phased manner during the 9th Five Year Plan period (1997—2002).

(c) to (e). Presently, no joint venture is proposed for these schemes with any foreign firm.

Unauthorised Hutments and Construction around the Railway Track

361 SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of the Central Railway is adversely affected by the unauthorised hutments and other construction around the railway track;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove these obstacles;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has proposed to the Union Government to allot their vacant land in Mumbai to hutments dwellers so that the present hutments can be removed; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action against the unauthorised occupants of Railway land is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mega Projects for Promotion of Resort Tourism

362. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to set up a number of Mega projects with special focus on Resort Tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of concept location financial implications, implementation schedule impact etc. project-wise;

(c) the follow up action taken/proposed to be taken both at the Apex level and State Government's level;

(d) the details of other innovative projects proposed to attract foreign tourist and encourage domestic tourism;